

Writing Skills Test

Directions: In the passage that follows, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right hand column, you will find alternatives for each underlined part. You are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone on the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is the best, choose "NO CHANGE". You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. For each question in the text, choose the alternative you consider best and blacken the corresponding space in your answer sheet. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. You cannot determine some answers without reading several sentences beyond the phrase in question. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

The following paragraphs may or may not be in the most logical order. Each paragraph is numbered in parentheses, and item 11 will ask you to choose the sequence of paragraph numbers that is in the most logical order.

(1)

In the end, everyone gives up jogging. Some find that their strenuous efforts to earn a living drains away the energy for running.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. A. no change | C. has drained |
| B. drain | D. is draining |

Others suffering from defeat by the hazards of the course, which can range from hard pavement to muddy track and from smog to sleet and snow.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2. A. no change | C. suffer |
| B. suffered | D. suffering with |

Person's can also simply collapse in their sneakers.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 3. A. no change | C. One may also |
| B. Still others | D. It's also possible |

My experience having been different, however, I had a revelation.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 4. A. no change | C. was a different |
| B. being different | D. was different |

(2)

It happened two summers ago up at Lake Tom, where I was vacationing with friends. I had been accustomed to running fairly regularly, but that whole week I decided to be lazy. I sailed, basked in the sun, and ate wonderful: lobster, steak, corn on the cob, baked potatoes, and ice cream

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 5. A. no change | C. eating wonderful: |
| B. ate wonderfully: | D. eat wonderful: |

By the forth day of this routine I had to face the truth which my body was slowly changing to dough.

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2. A. no change | C. truth about |
| B. truth | D. truth, which |

(3)

So, filled with worthy ambition, I tried on my favorite pair of running shoes and loped out to the main road in search of a five-mile route. Out of curiosity, I turned onto Lookout Hill Road and soon discovered how the road had come by its name.

7. A. no change
 B. Out of curiosity, Lookout Hill Road was turned onto
 C. Having become curious, Lookout Hill Road was the road I turned onto
 D. Lookout Hill Road, having become curious, was the route I turned onto --

I was chugging, at a painfully slow rate, up one of the longest, steepest inclines in the region. Perched at the faraway top of the hill was a solitary house, and only a desire to get a closer look at the place kept me going.

8. A. no change
 B. longest, steepest,
 C. steepest longest,
 D. longest and steepest,

(4)

I was exhausted when, gasping and bedraggled, I reach the crest of the hill. There I found a native New Englander rocking tranquilly on the front porch of the hous, which was painted. "Mister," I panted, "you sure live on a big hill!"

9. A. no change
 B. house (painted)
 C. house, and it was painted.
 D. house.

(5)

He studied me closely for a moment and then responded, "Yep, and I've got the good sense not to run up it." That night I tied the laces of my running shoes around a rock and pitched them into Lake Tom.

10. A. no change
 B. laces, of my running
 C. laces of my running,
 D. laces; of my runnin

Items 11 and 12 pose questions about the essay as a whole

11. Choose the sequence of paragraph numbers that will make the essay's structure most logical.

- A. no change B. 1, 4, 5, 2, 3 C. 1, 5, 4, 3, 2 D. 4, 5, 1, 2, 3

12. Is the use of direct quotation in the essay appropriate?

- A. No, because the essay is an explanation of why the writer gave up jogging.
 B. No, because more physical detail would be better in a descriptive story.
 C. Yes, because the story is enlivened by the dialogue.
 D. Yes, because the essay persuades readers to talk about running.

Answers

1. B 2. C 3. B 4. D 5. B 6. C 7. A 8. A 9. D 10. A 11. A 12. C